

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Process for the preparation of 3,4-diaminobenzenesulphonic acid, comprising reacting

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a) 1,2-diaminobenzene with anhydrous sulphuric acid which optionally comprises SO₃ in up to stoichiometric amount, at a temperature in the range from 100 to 160°C with stirring for a reaction time of from 1 to 20 hours,

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b) adding water or ice to the reaction mixture, optionally with cooling, up to a sulphuric acid concentration in the range from 30 to 75% by weight, based on the total mixture,

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c) filtering off the 3,4-diaminobenzenesulphonic acid precipitated out of the reaction mixture, optionally washing it with dilute sulphuric acid, and work-up.

2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the 3,4-

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diaminobenzenesulphonic acid is worked up in hot water by treatment with activated carbon.

3. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sulphuric acid or sulphuric acid equivalent is used in a molar ratio of from 5 to

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15:1 and SO₃ is used in a molar ratio of from 1.5 to 0:1.

4. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction in step a) is carried out in a temperature range from 120°C to 150°C.

5. 5. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction in step a) is carried out in a reaction time of from 5 to 15 hours.
- 5 6. 6. A process for the preparation of products in the pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, cosmetics or dyes comprising providing therefor 3,4-diaminobenzenesulphonic acid prepared according Claim 1.